

Your guide to The Delta

The fabulous California Delta is within an hour's drive of the Bay Area yet you will feel you are in a different world. The Delta is formed by the confluence of two major California rivers; the Sacramento and the San Joaquin and covers some 500,000 acres in the central part of the state. It is home to 225 species of birds, 54 fish species, and 52 species of mammals. The Delta produces some \$2 billion in annual crop revenue.

You can spend years exploring the 1,000 miles of local waterways by boat. If you travel by car, motorcycle, or bicycle there are hundreds of miles of back roads, villages, and towns to visit. You can ride on some of the only remaining ferry boats in California. Bird watching, wine tasting, local museums, antique shops, and art galleries are but a few of the points of interest you will encounter.

By auto there are many day trips you can make. The 153 year old city of Rio Vista is a good starting point. Take time to explore the downtown area of this former riverboat port. Have lunch or a cold drink at The Point Waterfront Restaurant or Foster's Bighorn on Main Street. Be sure to visit the local museum on North Front Street.

Leaving Rio Vista and heading north on State Route 84 you will encounter the Real McCoy ferry boat that will take you to Ryer Island. Snug Harbor Resort on the island has great fishing and has spaces for RV camping or you can rent one of their Snuggle Inns. From Ryer Island a short ride on the J Mack ferry across Steamboat Slough takes you to Grand Island where you can pay a visit to the Grand Island Mansion and the Ryde Hotel. Heading north you can visit charming hamlets such as Walnut Grove, Locke, Courtland, and Clarksburg. Stop in at the local wineries and art galleries on the way. In Clarksburg you can visit the Old Sugar Mill which since the end of sugar beet processing several years ago has been converted into a winery and art gallery. Top off your day with a visit to Old Sacramento with its restored historic buildings and many shops and restaurants.

If you head east on State Route 12 from Rio Vista you will pass Isleton and the Delta Loop area with many restaurants, shops, and resorts. Farther on down the road you will come to the city of Lodi with many wineries open for tasting, nice restaurants and a cute historic downtown district.

State Route 4 connects with Interstate 80 at Hercules and runs west to east in the southern part of the Delta. Traveling east on Route 4 you pass Pittsburg and Antioch two Delta cities with lively waterfront areas. Bethel Island is a short detour off the highway and is worth a visit to check out the many waterside restaurants and resorts. Farther east you encounter the beautiful waterfront community of Discovery Bay. Windmill Cove on Roberts Island provides a sandy beach along with tent and RV camping, cabins are available too. Eventually you arrive at the City of Stockton where you will find many waterside resorts and eateries as well as the famous Haggin Museum of local history.

Exploring the Delta by boat will give you an entirely different perspective. It is a pleasant trip from San Francisco Bay through Suisun Bay and either up the San Joaquin River to the Stockton area or up the Sacramento River to more northerly haunts. You can anchor in a quiet backwater and wake up to the sounds of thousands of birds having breakfast at sunrise. You can swim, kayak, or paddle board in calm waters, pick blackberries from the comfort of your boat cockpit, and visit (almost) uncharted waterways.

Throughout the year there are many events and festivals in the Delta please check our calendar at www.californiadelta.org and join us for some fun.

